2018-2019

**Mr. Swenson**

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**Attendance:** It is extremely difficult to learn if you are not present, and therefore I push attendance and punctuality. Please be on time for class every day. Our time is limited and valuable, and we will be starting promptly at the bell each period.

**Course Break-Down:** Honors Math 1 is the first half of a two-class series that covers three years’ worth of material. Honors Math 1 and Honors Math 2 cover Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 in two years. In this course we will cover the entire Algebra 1 course in 3 quarters of the year, and the 4th quarter will be spend beginning Geometry.

**Grading:** I use the school grading policy for letter grades.

Each SEMESTER GRADE will be comprised as follows:  
 Quarter 1: 40%  
 Quarter 2: 40%  
 Final Exam 20%

Each QUARTER GRADE will be comprised as follows:  
 Homework: 25%  
 Quizzes: 25%  
 Tests: 50%

My courses are broken down into learning objectives, and quizzes will be built specifically to these learning objectives. Each test will then be based on the learning objectives from the quizzes during a particular unit. Therefore, using the quizzes as a study guide will prepare students well for the tests, and should eliminate any surprises.

**Math Gym:** This is a method for improving grades on quizzes. A student wishing to re-take or improve their score on a quiz will need to go to Khan Academy and complete the objectives listed there (this may occasionally be an offline, paper-based process). After completing this and fixing the mistakes made on the quiz, the student’s grade will improve up to an 80%. On my website every quiz section is linked to the specific Khan Academy module that correlates to the material. Check out the page titled “Honors 1 Learning Targets” on my class website to find these links. We will also spend time exploring this in class.

**Food/Drink:** I allow water in my classroom, in clear closeable containers. If you tip it over, it needs to not be able to spill.

**Materials:** Always come prepared for class. Plan on needing your textbook, your working binder, a **pencil,** and a calculator every day. There may be days you don’t need to bring these items, or days you need to bring other things as well. Pay attention, and *be prepared*.

**Classroom Hours:** I am typically in my classroom by 7:30am (Mon-Fri). If you know you need to come in for whatever reason, all I ask is that you talk to me the day before (or as soon as possible) just to make sure that I can be here and that we can meet, whether that be before school, after school, or at lunch. If you stop by unannounced you run the risk that I might not be here.

**iPods/phones/headphones:** I use a check-in/check-out “paycheck” system for electronic devices. Students place their phone in their calculator slot, and retrieve the calculator. When they have finished their assigned work for the day, they return the calculator and retrieve their device which they are now free to use. Students who wish not to place their device in the slot may not use it at all during the period.

**Quarter Ticket Procedures:** I will issue each student 3 “tickets” at the beginning of each quarter. These are for you to hold on to, and to redeem as you see fit for a variety of reasons. Some possible uses of tickets:

* + Locker trips, bathroom trips, drinking fountain trips
  + Excusing late homework – NOT applicable to tests/quizzes/large assignments
  + Excusing minor tardies (less than 5 minutes late)
  + Other uses as deemed reasonable by Mr. Swenson
* \*Tickets can be taken away for behavior issues or rule infractions as well.\*
* Tickets that are saved until the end of the quarter may be turned in for extra credit.

**Extra Credit:**  I may offer other extra credit sporadically throughout the trimester, through a variety of opportunities. These are not guaranteed opportunities however, and a student must be caught up on missing assignments before extra credit may be awarded. *NOTE: Students may not pass the semester due to extra credit. A minimum 60% must be earned before extra credit is applied. This rule also applies to Quarter Tickets.*

**Academic Honesty:**  I have ZERO tolerance for cheating. If you are caught cheating in any fashion, you will receive a “0” for the assignment, your parents will be called, and you will be referred to the office. This policy is firm and will be followed through.

Please feel free to call or email me if you need anything! I am here to help you succeed, and I want us to have the best year possible. I will work my hardest to ensure that we have a great year, and I hope you are committed to doing the same!

*-Mr. Swenson*

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.”

-Abigail Adams

(former first lady of the United States)